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AUG 25 2003		
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August 20, 2003

Mr. Robert Harris
Regional Manager
Upper Great Plains Region
Western Area Power Administration
2900 4th Avenue North
Billings, MT 59101-1266

Dear Mr. Harris:

The Western Area Power Administration had announced rate increases for firm power customers in both the Eastern and Western Divisions of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program. For transmission rates, Western has extended the existing Eastern Division rate; and is proposing a decrease in the Western Division rate, as well as offering additional ancillary services.

I support the two-step implementation of the new rate increase. I understand the two-step increase in the Western Division would mean a 7.8% increase in January 2004 and a 1.9% increase in October 2004.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Randall F. Owen
General Manager

RFO/pja